

Armed Forces Epidemiology Board Adverse Childhood Events: Considerations as a Military Population Health Metric?



Lt Col Bruce Ruscio
Director, Military Public Health, OSD (HA) C&PP
20-21 June 2005



Background

Adverse Childhood Events Study

- **Adverse Childhood Events Study (ACE)**

- A Decade-long, ongoing Collaboration between Kaiser Permanente's Department of Preventive Medicine in San Diego, California, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Designed to assess the long-term relationships between a wide range of adverse, traumatic, or chaotic childhood experiences on health, health behavior, social well-being, disease incidence, and costs of medical care
- 18,000 members of Kaiser Permanente
 - *Patients going through routine medical screening at Kaiser's Department of Preventive Medicine, in San Diego, California*



Background

Adverse Childhood Events Study

- As a potential population health metric may provide a better understanding of risk behavior, social and individual medical problems, and intervention opportunities
- Careful consideration must be given to implementing new screening, services, education, and intervention to portions of the active duty military population
- In the February 2004 recommendations on "Population Health Metrics," the AFEB offered to review and comment on proposed population health metrics



Background

Adverse Childhood Events Study

Requests the AFEB provide recommendations regarding potential Adverse Childhood Events (ACE) screening in military service member populations

1. Given that the bulk of ACE research to date is cross-sectional, please provide your opinion on the efficacy of the ACE as a population health metric
2. If the Board considers the ACE a useful population metric for military service members, when does the Board think it is best to assess this metric in military personnel?
3. Provide recommendations regarding further evaluation or additional research (if any) that the DoD should conduct before or after implementing the ACE as a population metric



Background

Adverse Childhood Events Study

Questions